


# Give the Gift of Green this Holiday Season

By Environmental Programs Division



To promote a more sustainable County of Los Angeles this holiday season is simple; rethink the amount of trash you generate. Here are some holiday tips to help you **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink** your waste. We also have tips on alternative gift-giving/wrapping ideas to make this holiday as green as can be!

- **Use Reusable Bags** –

Whether shopping for the holidays, or picking up groceries, make sure to take along a reusable shopping bag and you will help conserve natural resources.

- **Give a Gift Card** –

They never expire and require no fancy gift wrapping.

- **Say “Happy Holidays” Over the**

**Phone or Internet** – Save postage and trees by sending electronic holiday cards this year. Check the selection of commercial sites on the web for free e-mail cards.

- **Repurpose old Holiday Cards** – Cut up cards to be used as gift tags, bookmarks, greeting cards, place mats, or decorations.
- **Recycle That Tree** – Contact your trash hauler for recycling options in your city. You can also turn your holiday tree into mulch for water conservation and weed control in the garden.
- **Have a Toxic Free Home for the Holidays** – Whether it's getting ready for holiday guests or simply cleaning out your garage, make sure to properly dispose of your household cleaners and other hazardous waste by taking them to a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. For information on the next collection event in your community, visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com).
- **Think Outside the Gift Box** – Purchase gift bags or baskets so they can be reused each year.

- **Consider the Environment** – Sprayed-on artificial snow can be made from environmentally harmful components and hinder the ability to recycle a holiday tree. For a more earth-friendly artificial snow, sprinkle on some baking powder.
- **Buy Reusable Batteries** – Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries instead of single-use batteries. You can recycle old batteries by taking them to your local Home Depot, Ikea, or select County Public Libraries. For more information on the County's Household Battery Collection Program, visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com).
- **Recycle Packing Peanuts** – Check with local packaging or shipping companies to see if they will accept foam peanuts for recycling. Call “The Peanut Hotline” at (800) 828-2214 or visit [www.loosefillpackaging.com](http://www.loosefillpackaging.com) to find the nearest reuse location.
- **Make Room for New Gadgets and Toys** – Post your unwanted electronics on the County's Materials Exchange Website, [www.LACoMAX.com](http://www.LACoMAX.com), or if they are broken take them to a free mobile Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic-Waste Collection Event.
- **Give the Gift of Donating** - Donate outgrown toys, clothes, and furniture to charitable groups like Goodwill, The Salvation Army, American Cancer Society, or Volunteers of America.
- **Recycle old Holiday Lights** – Recycle broken or burned-out holiday lights by mailing them to Christmas Light Source Recycling Program, 4313 Elmwood Drive, Benbrook, TX 76116. The bulbs will be recycled and proceeds will be used to purchase books that will be donated to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. For more information, visit [www.christmas-light-source.com](http://www.christmas-light-source.com)
- **Save on Gift Wrap** – Save and reuse gift wrapping paper from previous years, or make some from butcher paper, reused brown paper bags, newspapers, and fabric. Shop for recycled-content holiday wrapping paper.

For more information on the holiday tree recycling guidelines the County's environmental programs and, visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com) or call 1(888) CLEAN-LA.